



## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

### **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**

**[Document Identifier CMS-R-131]**

#### **Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing an opportunity for the public to comment on CMS' intention to collect information from the public. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (the PRA), federal agencies are required to publish notice in the *Federal Register* concerning each proposed collection of information (including each proposed extension or reinstatement of an existing collection of information) and to allow 60 days for public comment on the proposed action. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding our burden estimates or any other aspect of this collection of information, including the necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions, the accuracy of the estimated burden, ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected, and the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

**ADDRESSES:** When commenting, please reference the document identifier or OMB control number. To be assured consideration, comments and recommendations must be submitted in any one of the following ways:

1. *Electronically.* You may send your comments electronically to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for "Comment or Submission" or "More Search Options" to find the information collection document(s) that are accepting comments.

2. *By regular mail.* You may mail written comments to the following address:

CMS, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs

Division of Regulations Development

Attention: Document Identifier/OMB Control Number \_\_\_\_\_

Room C4-26-05

7500 Security Boulevard

Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

To obtain copies of a supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed collection(s) summarized in this notice, you may make your request using one of following:

1. Access CMS' Web Site address at Web Site address at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/PaperworkReductionActof1995/PRA-Listing.html>
2. E-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and CMS document identifier, to [Paperwork@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Paperwork@cms.hhs.gov).
3. Call the Reports Clearance Office at (410) 786-1326.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** William N. Parham at (410) 786-4669.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Contents*

This notice sets out a summary of the use and burden associated with the following information collections. More detailed information can be found in each collection's supporting statement and associated materials (see **ADDRESSES**).

## CMS- R-131 Advance Beneficiary Notice of Noncoverage (ABN)

Under the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. The term "collection of information" is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c) and includes agency requests or requirements that members of the public submit reports, keep records, or provide information to a third party. Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA requires federal agencies to publish a 60-day notice in the Federal Register concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension or reinstatement of an existing collection of information, before submitting the collection to OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, CMS is publishing this notice.

### *Information Collection*

1. *Type of Information Collection Request:* Extension without change of a currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Advance Beneficiary Notice of Noncoverage (ABN); *Use:* The use of the written Advance Beneficiary Notice of Non-coverage (ABN) is to inform Medicare beneficiaries of their liability under specific conditions. This has been available since the "limitation on liability" provisions in section 1879 of the Social Security Act (the Act) were enacted in 1972 (P.L. 92-603). ABNs are not given every time items and services are delivered. Rather, ABNs are given only when a physician, provider, practitioner, or supplier anticipates that Medicare will not provide payment in specific cases.

An ABN may be given, and the beneficiary may subsequently choose not to receive the item or service. An ABN may also be issued because of other applicable statutory requirements other than §1862(a)(1) such as when a beneficiary wants to obtain an item from a supplier who has not met Medicare supplier number requirements, as listed in section 1834(j)(1) of the Act or when statutory

requirements for issuance specific to HHAs are applicable.

ABNs are usually given as hard copy notices during in-person patient encounters. In some cases, notification may be done by telephone with a follow-up notice mailed. Electronic issuance of ABNs is permitted as long as the beneficiary is offered the option to receive a paper copy of the notice if this is preferred. Regardless of the mode of delivery, the beneficiary must receive a copy of the signed ABN for his/her own records. Incorporation of ABNs into other automated business processes is permitted, and some limited flexibility in formatting the notice in such cases is allowed, as discussed in the form instructions. Notifiers may choose to store the required signed copy of the ABN electronically. *Form Number:* CMS-R-131 (OMB control number: 0938-0566); *Frequency:* Yearly; *Affected Public:* State, Local, or Tribal Governments; *Number of Respondents:* 1,589,060; *Total Annual Responses:* 382,216,385; *Total Annual Hours:* 44,593,186. (For policy questions regarding this collection contact Jennifer McCormick at 410-786-2852.)

Dated: August 15, 2019.

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**William N. Parham, III,**

*Director,*

*Paperwork Reduction Staff,*

*Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs.*

**4120-01-U-P**

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